

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FAA-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 OES-03 CEQ-01 EPA-01 /045 W

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R 071846Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5637

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

FAA BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR:CONCORDE

REF: (A) STATE 01698, (B) PARIS 31132

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATIVE OF BACKGROUND RE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) PROVIDED REF A. HOWEVER, ONE ASPECT THAT IS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO US IS THAT EIS PROCEDURE HAS APPARENTLY ELICITED FROM FRENCH FIRST FORMAL APPROACH TO USG, AT LEAST TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, OUTLINING FRENCH INTENTIONS RE OPERATION CONCORDE SERVICE TO US. WE REFER TO DEC. 24 LETTER FROM GILBERT PEROL, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF AIR FRANCE, TO FAA,(SUMMARIZED IN DEC. 27 ISSUE OF AVIATION DAILY) OFFICIALLY PROPOSING AIR FRANCE CONCORDE SERVICE FROM PARIS AS FOLLOWS: EARLY IN 1976 AND NO LATER THAN APRIL 1 DAILY FLIGHT TO NEW YORK INCREASING TO TWO FLIGHTS DAILY; IN MID-1976 THREE FLIGHTS A WEEK AT OUTSET TO WASHINGTON, DC; AND OVER THE LONGER TERM POSSIBILITY OF SERVICE TO BOSTON.

2. VALLE OF AGREEMENTS SECTION AT AIR FRANCE

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TELLS US THAT IT IS BRITISH AIRWAYS AND NOT AIR FRANCE

THAT IS INTERESTED IN SERVING BOSTON. REFERENCE TO BOSTON WAS INCLUDED IN AIR FRANCE LETTER SIMPLY TO MAKE IT CONFORM WITH SEPARATE LETTER OF INTENT BRITISH AIRWAYS ALSO ADDRESSED TO FAA. VALLE SAID THAT WHILE PEROL LETTER WAS FORMALITY CARRIED OUT AT FAA REQUEST TO SET EIS PROCEDURE IN MOTION, IT WAS "IMPORTANT ACT" THAT HAD OF COURSE BEEN CAREFULLY COORDINATED WITH SGAC. HOWEVER, WE DISCOVERED FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT IT WAS A BIT PUT OUT AT NOT HAVING BEEN CONSULTED ON THE PEROL LETTER OR EVEN BEING AWARE OF ITS EXISTENCE (HENCE MINISTRY'S EARLIER REACTION AS REPORTED PARA 3 REF B); FOREIGN MINISTRY NOW SEEMS TO HAVE GIVEN ITS BELATED APPROVAL, AND JURISDICTIONAL SPAT HAS THUS BEEN AVOIDED.

3. ALSO ON SUBJECT OF CONCORDE, STATE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORT CAVAILLE TOLD PRESS IN TOULOUSE JAN. 6 THAT CONCORDE WOULD DEFINITELY GO INTO COMMERCIAL SERVICE IN JANUARY 1976 ON ONE OR MORE ROUTES. (PARIS 25788 HAD REPORTED EARLIER AIR FRANCE ANNOUNCEMENT COMMERCIAL SERVICE WOULD BE INAUGURATED END 1975 ON PARIS-SOUTH AMERICAN (RIO) ROUTE.)

4. LAST WEEK'S ISSUE OF NEWSMAGAZINE LE POINT REPORTED POSSIBILITY SAUDI ARABIA MIGHT TAKE OPTIONS ON CONCORDE. FOREIGN MINISTRY CIVAIR OFFICIAL UNAWARE OF ANY BASIS OF TRUTH THAT STORY.
RUSH

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